

A-B-C BOOK OF BIRDS



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THE A=B=C BOOK OF BIRDS

FOR CHILDREN, LARGE OR SMALL

BY

MARY CATHERINE JUDD

WITH NONSENSE RHYMES FOR LITTLE ONES
AND PROSEY SENSE FOR OLDER ONES



CHICAGO

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CRADLE SONG

By ALFRED TENNYSON

What does little birdie say
In her nest at peep of day?
Let me fly, says little birdie,
Mother, let me fly away.

Birdie, rest a little longer,
Till the little wings are stronger.
So she rests a little longer,
Then she flies away.

What does little baby say,
In her bed at peep of day?
Baby says, like little birdie,
Let me rise and fly away.

Baby sleep a little longer,
Till the little limbs are stronger.
If she sleeps a little longer,
Baby too shall fly away.

TO THE CHILDREN

These birds are yours in pictures,
rhyme and prose,
Good friends are they as everybody
knows.
Be sure you learn their names
and where they dwell,
For, some time, you may see
the birds as well.

A

American Bald Eagle

A. B. E.

That's my Flag and that's my Bird,
Maybe you have never heard
How Old Abe once went to war,
(Never cared what it was for).

How he screamed when cannon roared,
High o'erhead he always soared;
Battle done, 'way down he'd fly,
Down to camp with friends near-by.

American Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

THIS eagle, with the initials A. B. E., was chosen June 20, 1782, as the emblem of our country, because of its long life, great strength, and majestic looks, and also because it was then believed to exist upon no other continent. It is found from Greenland to Mexico, and in all parts of the United States, especially near water, as it is very fond of fish.

Its popular name, "Old Abe," was taken from that of a bald eagle which was the pet of a Wisconsin regiment during the war of 1861-1865.

Bald Eagles have white feathers upon their heads when they are three years old. The first year the birds are very dark brown, the second year their color changes to gray. Their claws and ankles are always bare, which distinguishes them from the one species, the Golden Eagle.

B

Bluejay

The Bluebird, Bobolink and Bat,
And saucy jay that wears a hat,
All these four names begin with B,
O, Bluejay's hat is fine to see.

The Bluejays rob and fuss and chatter,
The small birds fret; now what's the matter?
They will tell you, they will say,
"The Bluejays stole our eggs away."

When winter morns are cold and clear,
The Bluejay's voice we love to hear.
He may do wrong but we forgive,
And corn bestow that he may live.



Bluejay

(*Cyanocitta cristata*)

A NEAR relative of the crow and the magpie, this beautiful bird possesses some of the bad traits of these cousins, as well as their imitative powers. The Bluejay's jaunty manner, handsome crest and coloring make him attractive in the woods, or as a pet.

His common tones are harsh, and so is his treatment of smaller birds and their young. He guards his own nest with a fierce courage which is to his credit. The Bluejay remains in many places in the North all winter, and is common in the eastern and middle parts of our country.

The gentle Bluebird of early spring, known by its azure blue back and cinnamon breast, has a sweet song and loves the homes of men.

The jubilant singer, called Bobolink during his nesting season in the North, becomes the plump brown reedbird of the hunters in the South. The Bat is not a bird.

C

Cardinal Grosbeak

O, my Redbird, hear me call!
For I love you best of all.
Won't you come and live with me
Right here in my cedar tree?
If you'll come I'll play with you;
I will feed you berries, too.
If your mother says you may,
Come to see me ev'ry day.
Grown folks call you Cardinal;
I don't like that name at all,
For it sounds so very great—
Just like men who live in state.
You're my Redbird, and I know
You will sing before I go.



CARDINAL.
(*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Life-size.

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Cardinal

(*Cardinalis cardinalis*)

THIS sweet singer, dressed in the red of a true cardinal and often known as the Redbird, is seen but seldom in the north of our country, and then during the very hottest days of summer. A small colony of these birds has settled in Central Park, New York City, and a few others are seen farther north, but their true home is near or south of the Ohio river. Their beautiful color fades when they are housed in cages, but they never lose their song. They are much liked as cage birds in England, where they are sometimes called Virginia Nightingales. The brilliant coloring of these birds, when wild, makes them conspicuous and their treatment by mankind causes them to fear the ones they would be glad to love.

D

Duck, Mallard

Ducks and drakes do well agree,
Swamps are filled with food that's free.
Rice grows scarce and water cold,
Far they'll fly, so I've been told.

South, Ducks go, to warmer clime,
Back they'll come, when it is time.
Mallard, Teal and Canvasbacks,
Wood and Baldpate, all are quacks.



MALLARD DUCK.
½ life-size.

Mallard Duck

(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

THE Greenhead or Mallard is found everywhere within the United States, but leaves the northern states for Cuba or Panama after the frosts have come. It is the original of our common barnyard duck.

Ducks may be divided into domestic, freshwater and saltwater species. They are greedy feeders upon seeds, small fish and insects, while they secure much food from thick, muddy water which they strain through the sieve-like edges of their bills.

When aroused, they cry, "Quack! quack!" and a small flock can make a great din.

E

Eggs

Eggs so fair, of dainty size,
Eggs as freckled as a boy,
Eggs as blue as Easter skies,
Eggs that seem just like a toy.
Eggs, what treasures do you hide?

Birds that love the evening breeze,
Birds that seek the mountain height,
Birds so glad of sunlit seas,
Birds that sing in meadows bright.
Birds, in eggshells, once did hide.

Eggs

AUTHORITIES state that it is very difficult to identify any species of bird by the eggs as the colors, markings and size of eggs of the same kind vary to a great extent. Eggs of various species of birds are as different in sizes as the birds themselves. The great Ostrich egg is the giant while the Humming-bird's little treasure is the pygmy. Blue, buff and white are common colorings but blues, greens, and lavenders in varying shades and tints may be seen in large collections. The curious dots, blotches and flecks of chocolate and other browns which appear on many kinds of eggs are interesting, as well as the variations in oval forms. The eggs of the Robin and Catbird are among the most beautiful in color of any of the common birds.

F

Flamingo

A Flicker from a tree
Saw a funny, tall Flamingo,
He climbed up high to see
And hear from San Domingo.
“Come down and live with me,
I’ll teach you all my lingo.”
The Flicker laughed in glee,
And shouted back, “O, Jingo.”



Flamingo

(*Phœnicopterus ruber*)

THIS remarkable bird of singular appearance and vivid color, is, when alive and wild, of a most brilliant scarlet. In captivity or when mounted, this color fades to pink. These fishermen in scarlet are often five feet tall and rarely weigh, when alive, more than eight pounds. They have been seen on the Florida Keys but their home has been in Cuba and through tropical America. It is feared that they may soon become extinct.

The Flicker (*colaptes auratus*) is the Golden-winged Woodpecker found in nearly all parts east of the Rockies. It is a large bird whose loud laughter is heard in early spring, and thirty-seven local names have been given it by boys and others.

G

Grebe

Grebe, Goose and Gull

Set out one day

To sail a race

To Casco Bay.

The Gull flew fast,

The Goose flew high,

The Grebe dove down,

Away went I.



Pied-Billed Grebe

(*Podilymbus podiceps*)

WE may think of the Grebes as strangers or birds difficult to discover, but whoever has seen the Waterwitch, Dabchick, or Little Diver of our larger or smaller rivers and lakes, has seen this most common little Pied-billed Grebe. Country boys on their way to school love to watch this diver disappear below the surface of the water, leaving scarcely a ripple, and then re-appear far beyond where it went down, for it is also a famous swimmer. It is common from the British Provinces to the Gulf.

Its nest is a tiny raft of reeds and rushes made stout with mud from the river bottom, and anchored fast to the wild iris or flag stalks. There are very many species of Grebe but this is the most common.

H

Hummingbird

(Ruby-throat)

Hum, hum, humming, hums,
Mamma, here my birdie comes!

Here's a picture of its nest
And the mother bird at rest!

The little eggs, I want to see
Just how tiny they may be.

O, his throat is like your ring!
How I wish that he could sing.

He's a little living gem,
They are fairies, both of them.



RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD
About Life-size.

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Ruby-Throated Humming-bird

(*Archilochus colubris*)

THE ruby-throat has been seen by nearly every one who has a plant or garden with long-tubed flowers. There are several species of Humming-birds west of the Rocky Mountains but the Ruby-throat is the only one native of eastern North America.

Their food is the honey of flowers and small insects, especially aphides, which are readily taken by these dainty lovers of sweets. The honey of the petunia sometimes stupefies these tiny birds, and one was recently caught after such a feast.

These Humming-birds are found from Labrador to Uruguay and stay with us from May to October. They are said to be easily tamed and become the most exquisite of pets.

I

Ibis, White

O, Ibis white, with beak so red,
Don't let that turn your little head!
That bill, it is so very long
Your shortest note must be a song.
Those long stilts, too, and slender toes
Are covered well with scarlet hose;
You are indeed a handsome bird,
But seldom seen and rarely heard.



THE WHITE IBIS

White Ibis

(*Guara alba*)

THE Spanish Curlew, or White Ibis, of the south Atlantic and Gulf states, finds its way as far north as Long Island and sometimes is seen on the shores of Great Salt Lake, but it loves best the islands of the Gulf coast where hundreds of these birds build their nests. This bird is a near relative of the Sacred Ibis of Egypt.

J

Junco

(Common Snowbird)

Listen! listen! hear them call,
While the snows around them fall;
Searching now for seeds so small,
Swinging on the brown weeds tall.

Bless these birds in slate and gray;
We will watch them ev'ry day,
For no fear of snow have they.
Do you know what Juncos say?



SLATE COLORED JUNCO.
(*Junco hyemalis*).
Life size.

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Junco, Common Snowbird

(*Junco hyemalis*)

THIS Black Snowbird, or White-bill, as he is called in Ontario, is in some places but little known by his name of Junco. There are eight species of this common Snowbird within the limits of the United States but nearly all are found on mountains white with snow. Our Juncos come in September and remain until April and the cheery, hardy visitor is very welcome. During the coldest days they will come to the house or barn for food, for hunger makes them very brave, but they usually remain in vacant lots and gather their harvest from the weeds. In May they go to northern New York or New England, while further west they cross the borders into the British Provinces, where they nest through the summer. Be sure to feed these little birds.

K

Kingbird

Here's the Kingbird, king of all,
For he's brave, though very small.
And his crown, it is a crest,
Worn abroad or in his nest.
He fears no bird, however large;
At the crow, just see him charge!
For he fears that some foe may
Take his mate or eggs away.
To his friends he's very kind,
But he makes the birdies mind.

KINGBIRD.
(Tyrannus tyrannus).
1. Life-size.



Kingbird—Bee Martin

(*Tyrannus tyrannus*)

THE Bee Martin is believed by many farmers to not deserve this name, for he is thought to destroy only drones driven from the hives. He is very useful because of his fondness for many harmful insects. As Kingbird he has won his title bravely, for he is a royal fighter and fears no bird whether larger or smaller than himself.

He defends his home and his mate with great vigor. He is found east of the Rocky Mountains from Manitoba to South America.

L

Loon

Loon, Loon, Loon,
 Loon-a-lee,
Baby Loon,
 Look at me,
Mamma Loon will not see.

Loon, Loon, Loon,
 Loon-a-lye,
Dive down soon,
 Come up dry;
Baby Loon must not cry.



Loon

(*Gavia immer*)

THE Great Northern Diver, standing nearly three feet high as he rests upon his paddle-like feet placed far back upon his body, is the most expert of all divers. His scream is like a defiant, mocking laugh to the hunters who would attempt to take his life to show their skill as marksmen. His home is from the extreme north of America to the northern states during the summer, but during the winter he makes his way as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. The Loon usually walks to and from her nest near the water.

M

Meadowlark

What a shining vest of yellow,
Meadowlark, with necktie black!
You're a darling little fellow,
And for friends will never lack.
From your lowly nest slow winging,
How you rise with flute-like song!
On the fence, I hear you singing,
Will you linger, linger long?



MEADOWLARK,
Sturnella magna.

Meadowlark

(*Sturnella magna*)

WHO does not know this sweet singer of the meadows east of the Mississippi, and whose range is from Florida to Manitoba? In some parts of New England the Meadowlark remains all winter, but in most northern states it usually seeks a warmer climate. It is closely related to the Blackbirds and Bobolinks, its brothers of the meadows, and is not a true lark, but its sweet, thrilling song is very welcome in the early spring. In the South it is often called the Old-field Lark. The laws of many states protect this bird from the game hunters for it destroys many insects.

N

Nightingale

O, Nightingale, your song you keep
Until I'm in my bed asleep.
You seek the hedge with shadows gray,
I cannot find you in the day.
Your dress I know is handsome brown,
I wish you wore a brighter gown.
You are so shy, so dear, so sweet,
In daytime more your song repeat.



Nightingale

(*Luscinia philomela*)

THE Nightingale is quite common in many parts of England and other countries of Europe. A small bird that loves the thick hedges, its sober color and quiet habits make it unnoticed in the daytime, but when evening comes it pours out a song so rich and full in tone as to make it the most remarkable of singers. During a part of the year it often sings in the day.

The Persian Nightingale, or Bulbul, closely resembles this bird in every way. There are no native Nightingales in America, but some few birds may have escaped from cages.

O

Oriole, Baltimore

An Oriole sang, by his swaying nest:

“Of all bird homes, my hammock is best ;

For I’m a sailor.

I sail in the air,

My ship is a tree, and it is anchored there.

In storms, in wind, in the sunshine fair,

My treasures are safe,

And I’m free from care.”



Baltimore Oriole

(*Icterus galbula*)

WEARING the colors of the livery of the first Lord Baltimore, this bird was named for him. This Oriole is often called Golden Robin, Firebird and Hangnest. The pouch-like hammock which the Baltimore Oriole weaves with its bill and feet is a skillful piece of work and may be found swaying from the drooping boughs of an elm or sycamore, sometimes fifty feet from the ground.

The bird has a pleasing song and is a delightful summer visitor in the North, and gladly welcomed after his winter sojourn in Mexico or regions farther south. His name of Golden Robin shows that he is willing to make friends with man, like Robin Redbreast, and keeps near those who are friendly to him.

P

Passenger Pigeon

O, Pigeon! were you passenger
 On train that darkened all the sky?
Or, maybe you are messenger
 Of millions coming by and by.
I'd like to have so many friends
 And travel with them night and day,
By airline road to journeys' ends,
 And only stop to eat and play.

Passenger Pigeon

(*Ectopistes migratorius*)

NO bird of our forest is more exquisitely tinted than this species of Pigeon which, according to Audubon and more recent writers, once migrated in flocks of millions which were slaughtered in a most reckless manner by hunters.

The forests which once furnished these birds with acorns and other food have been cut down or destroyed by fire and flood, and the flocks have grown smaller and fewer each year. This beautiful bird will be extinct in a short time unless vigorous game laws are made for its protection.

Q

Quail

(Bob White)

O, baby Quails! I saw you run,
And I would catch you, just in fun.

But your mother thinks it's best
To hide you as she does her nest.

I've heard your father call, "Bob White!"
Is Bob your uncle? Am I right?



Bob White

(*Colinus virginianus*)

THIS Partridge, which is never called by its true name, is one of the most common and familiar of American game birds. From Maine to Texas, from the Atlantic coast to the Missouri river, its cheery whistle of "Bob White" may be heard, and in most places throughout the year, for in the North he often burrows under snow for the seeds he loves so well. The Quail nests upon the ground and there are sometimes twenty little ones in each of the two broods of one season. The young run to cover at the first signal from their mother.

R

Robin Redbreast

(American)

The Robin hops and runs and stops
 Until a fine fat worm she spies,
Then off she goes, and, I suppose,
 With it she checks her children's cries.

Her eggs are blue, and I tell you
 That Robin's eggs are precious store;
She knows I'm good, for I have stood
 And watched her feed her babies four.



ROBIN.

American Robin

(*Planesticus migratorius*)

SOMETIMES Robin Redbreast, and sometimes the Bluebird wins the race to the northern states in early March. It is thought that the Pilgrim Fathers gave this Thrush, which in many ways reminded them of the Robin of their native England, the name which has become so familiar to the children and to grown people. Our Robin loves the homes of men and feels sure of protection for the good which he does in destroying insects and caterpillars, harmful to fruit and other products of the farm. He is known from the Gulf coast to Alaska.

S

Swallow-Barn

By the rafter, Swallow free,
Sing again your "Dittle--ee!"

Here your nest of mud you make;
I'm afraid that it will break.

I won't touch it! I don't dare!
And you've lined it with such care,

All your darling eggs I know,
Will to swiftest Swallows grow.



BARN SWALLOW.

$\frac{7}{8}$ Life size.

Barn Swallow

(*Hirundo erythrogastra*)

THE Barn Swallows are truly birds of the air, for with their wide mouths they gather in, while on the wing, their feast of gnats and other flying insects, without pausing until their meal is finished. They are often seen sitting at rest upon telegraph wires and may be known by the deeply forked tails which aid them in their graceful flight. School boys in the country and in towns are apt to make a target of the mud nests which the swallows build against the rafters of barns or sheds. Those who have stayed to see the sympathy these birds give each other in such times of trouble may have learned a good lesson. The swallows migrate to the countries of South America but are known as far north as Hudson Bay. Its near relative, the Cliff Swallow, builds under the eaves, preferring those places to the rafters.

T

Tanager—Scarlet

Once a Scarlet Tanager
Was a concert manager.
He, his happy chorus found
In the green trees all around;
Fine he looked in black and red,
Stauding gaily at the head,
With his band of pipers, fine,
While the birdies march in line.



Scarlet Tanager

(*Piranga erythromelas*)

IF this bird, the most brilliant and striking in color of all our northern feathered guests, is finally lost from our thickets and woodlands his loss will be felt and by all true bird-lovers. The Scarlet Tanager is becoming more unpopular each year in places that once were bright with his scarlet plumage and happy with his mellow song. His wife and little ones, in their suits of olive green, are much safer than himself, and before he leaves with them in August for the West Indies and southward, he changes his handsome uniform for a suit like theirs. His range is from the Rocky Mountains to Maine and from Canada to South America.

U

Upland Plover

(Bartramian Sandpiper).

Poor Bird! 'Tis sad to see your wing
So weak and broken at your side;
I'll try to catch you now, poor thing!
And in my cage at home you'll bide.

How strange! I cannot reach you, quite,
You seem so weak and yet so strong.
Ah, Plover, you were very bright,
But I would do your nest no wrong.



Upland Plover

(*Bartramia longicanda*)

BARTRAM'S Tattler is common throughout the United States except on the Pacific coast. On the plains of Manitoba he is known as Quaily, while in Minnesota he is Upland Plover or Prairie Snipe, and sometimes in other states he is the Prairie Pigeon. Very few know him as a Sandpiper for he is seldom seen by streams and he loves old pastures, uplands and stubble fields. Like many other birds which lay their eggs in nests upon the ground, the mother bird draws attention to herself by feigning a broken wing and thus keeps danger from her little ones. This bird is known in Nova Scotia and Alaska while their range southward extends to Chili.

V

Vireo-Red-eyed

O, Vireo,
Your red eyes show
Your love of papers and of books;
These strips so torn,
These texts so worn,
Your nest is very odd in looks.

On days so hot
Some birds forgot
To sing, last summer, scarce a word,
Your voice, so sweet,
Through all the heat,
Make us remember you, dear bird.



Red-Eyed Vireo

(*Vireosylva olivacea*)

THE Red-eyed Greenlet is another name for this little songster of the woods or orchard who keeps singing whether days are gray or gold, hot or cold. He comes from Mexico or Southland in May and sings until he leaves in September. All the Vireos build hanging nests but the Red-eyed chooses to decorate hers with bits of newspaper, if birch bark cannot easily be found. This Vireo is often called "The Preacher" by those who hear his voice declaiming some message, and when bits of texts are found hanging to his nest this name seems very appropriate.

W

Whippoorwill

Whippoorwill,	All night long
Do be still!	That queer song.
Such a song	Will's not bad
Is all wrong.	But he's sad,
My poor Will	And his face
Says, "Be still!"	Has no trace
For you make	Of a smile,
A mistake	All the while
When you sing,	That your bill
On the wing,	Opes and says:
"Whip poor Will!"	



WHIPPOORWILL.

 $\frac{3}{4}$ Life-size.

Whippoorwill

(*Antrostomus vociferus*)

THIS bird of the night, whose large eyes and wide mouth edged with bristles allows him to see and feed upon night-flying insects, sings his name over and over again, "Whip poor will." Its mottled plumage enables it to hide easily for its coloring is like the bark of the branch upon which it sits in so unbird-like a way, for its feet are not made for perching.

The farmer will not hurt this bird which helps him, and but few are ever able to discover it when resting during the day. Its cry is somewhat mournful but pleasing when but few are making their presence known.

X

Xanthocephalus

(Yellowheaded Blackbird)

O, birdie, on the broken tree,
Where did you get that funny name?
For Xantho, that is Greek to me,
And Cephalus is just the same.

I wonder that you sit so still,
But maybe you are puzzled too.
I wouldn't let it make me ill;
I'll study Greek and then tell you.



YELLOW-HEADED BLACK BIRD
2/3 Life-size.

Yellowheaded Blackbird

(*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

XANTHOS means yellow and cephalous means head in the Greek language. This handsome blackbird is found on the prairies of the West to the Pacific Ocean, and eastward as far as Pennsylvania. It leaves its prairies to nest like other blackbirds in meadows and marshes and is often called the "Swamp Blackbird." They fly in large flocks and are many times close neighbors of the Red-winged Blackbirds. After their nesting is over they sometimes alight in great numbers upon fields of grain and thus lose the friendship of the farmers.

Y

Yellow Warbler

O, hear the Yellowbirdies, near!

“Sweet, sweet! sweet, sweet! sweet, sweet!”

Perhaps they think I do not hear

This word they oft repeat.

They come so close, I see their eyes;

But oh! their wings are fleet.

They look at me in quick surprise,

Then sing: “Sweet, sweet! sweet, sweet!”



Yellow Warbler

(*Dendroica aestiva*)

THE Yellow Warbler, with its colors of springtime, soft greens and yellows, comes with the earliest blossoms of May to the North from the distant South where it has wintered. It is known in northern South America. The happy little song, bright feathers and social ways of these Yellowbirds make them seem like pets that may have escaped from cages of canaries. The black-winged Goldfinch is often called the Yellowbird but is becoming better known by his true name of Goldfinch.

Z

Zoo Zoo

(Mourning Dove)

“Zoo, zoo, zoo, zoo!”

“What makes you always sad?

I want to make you glad,

I do,

For I love you.”

The dove sighed: “Zoo,

I love you, too,

And sigh, but cannot sing for you.”



Mourning Dove

(*Zenaidura macroura*)

THE Turtle Dove has been noted throughout the ages as the saddest of all bird singers, Its sweet mournful coo has been called "zoo" in some localities, and the dove has received the name of Zoo Zoo. In other places it is known as the Carolina Dove. While caring for the nest and the young, the mates are devoted to each other and their home. Later in the year great flocks of these birds gather where food is plentiful, but the companies are never so large as those which have been seen of the Passenger Pigeon. It is found over the whole of the United States and south to the West Indies.

Some Questions

Which birds have red upon them?

Which birds have orange upon them?

Which birds have yellow upon them?

Which birds have green upon them?

Which birds have blue upon them?

Which birds have purple upon them?

Which birds live near the water?

Which birds live on the land?

Which birds cannot swim?

Which birds love to dive?

Which birds love the flowers?

Some Questions

Which bird do you like best?

Why?

Which bird is the prettiest?

Why?

Which bird's song do you like best?

Why?

Which bird flies the highest?

Why?

Which birds do you know the best?

Why?

Which birds leave in the fall?

Why?

A165854

